

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 OMB-01 AID-20 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /171 W

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R 161825Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4059

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIENE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 27006

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH, FR

SUBJ/ FRENCH VIEWS OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THAILAND

1. QUAI DIRECTOR FOR ASIA, FROMENT-MEURICE (F-M), GAVE EMBOFF
ON OCTOBER 15 PRELIMINARY GOF VIEWS OF EVENTS IN THAILAND. FRENCH
CONSIDER THAT PROGRESSION FROM DEMONSTRATIONS TO RIOTS WHICH
BROUGHT DOWN GOVERNMENT WAS RESULT OF SLOW RTG EVOLUTION IN FACE
OF MORE RAPID CHANGES WITHIN THAILAND AND IN SURROUNDING COUNTRIES.
GOF THOUGHT THAT THAI COMMUNISTS WERE NOT A SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT
IN THE EVENTS, BUT THAT FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION OF NEW REGIME MAY
BE MORE IN DIRECTION OF A KIND OF "NEUTRALISM" FOR THAILAND WHICH
WOULD SUIT PRC DESIRES. SUCH EVOLUTION MIGHT FURTHER TEMPER
PRC SUPPORT FOR THAI INSURGENTS. (F-M COMMENTED THAT MOW IT
WAS HANOI WHICH WAS MUCH MORE "REVOLUTIONARY" THAN
PEKING.) F-M SAID THAT IF BANGKOK MOVED TOWARD
"NEUTRALISM" IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL FOR POLITICAL EVOLUTION
ELSEWHERE ON THE PENINSULA -- ANY MOVE TO THE "RIGHT" WOULD
DISTURB LAO SETTLEMENT AND DELAY PROSPECTS FOR CAMBODIAN
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RESOLUTION.

2. F-M SAID THAT IN 1971 THE PRC HAD ALREADY INFORMED THE FRENCH THEY WERE READY TO ACCEPT A NEUTRAL THAILAND, AND IT WAS EVEN CLEARER NOW THAT THE PROSPECTS WERE GOOD FOR RTG TO WORRK OUT WITH CHOU EN-LAI A NEW RTG/PRC RELATIONSHIP WHICH WOULD HELP STABILIZE THE SITUATION IN ALL OF INDOCHINA. CHOU IS NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE CURRENT US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND, AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT PHASED DOWN GRADUALLY SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO VACUME INT WHICH USSR COULD MOVE. ALTHOUGH NOT ABLE PUBLICLY TO RENOUNCE SUPPORT FOR A LIBERATION MOVEMENT, CHOU CLEARLY WAS READY FOR A RESOLUTION WITH RTG -- AND WOULD NOT ECHO DRV LINE.

3. IN SUMMING UP, F-M SAID RECENT BANGKOK EVENTS PROVIDED A VERY FAVORABLE OCCASION FOR THAILAND TO MOVE FORWARD IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBOTS TO ARRIVE AT A POLICY IN ACCORD WITH THE EVOLVING REALITIES IN INDOCHINA.

4. COMMENT: THE ABOVE PROBABLY AT THIS POINT REPRESENTS ONLY F-M' OPINION, BUT F-M'S PREDICTABLE VIEWS WILL PROBABLY IN THIS CASE FIND SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCE IF GOF.
IRWIN

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